

importance and of general interest, I desired the superintendents of Edecombe to suspend action until I could get the opinions also of the president and directors of the literary fund. These unanimously concurred in the views I had expressed, and the result was communicated to the chairman of the superintendents of Edgecombe; and since these occurrences, I have seen by the acts of the last Assembly, now in print, that the counties of Jackson, Wilson, Harnett and Polk were all created by similar laws, while the supplemental acts providing for their political organization make no allusion to the common schools. Thus twelve other counties are directly interested in the opinions communicated to Edgecombe; while in times past this very subject has caused some trouble, and given rise to contradictory precedents, and may still cause embarrassments in the future, if some general and uniform policy is not adopted.

It is to be hoped that to prevent the possibility of disputes and differences, the Legislature will pass some general act upon the subject; and at the proper time I will communicate to the officers of the schools my views in relation to this and to some other proposed additions to and amendment of the laws in regard to common schools. In the mean time, to assist as much as possible in preventing confusion, the result of the views entertained by the literary board, and by myself, upon the points sent up from Edgecombe, are hereby communicated to the officers of your county, and will also be made public.

1. Since the decision of the county court of Wilson, that it had not the power to appoint superintendents of common schools, it was not deemed necessary, in this case, to express an opinion upon the application to new counties of the 1st section of the 95th chapter of the acts of 1848-'49, found in my pamphlet compilation of the school laws on page 13th, section 1, and re-enacted in the 23d section of the 27th chapter of the acts of the last Assembly.

We incline to the opinion, however, that in new counties, invested by the acts creating and organizing them with "the rights, privileges and immunities of other counties of the